Appl. No. 09/664,148
Amdt. dated April 21, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 8, 2004

PATENT

## Amendments to the Claims:

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:*

## Listing of Claims:

1.      (Currently Amended)  A method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a <u>client computer</u> requestor and a selector, the method comprising steps of:

determining a first transfer quality factor relating the <u>client computer</u> requestor and a first source, the first source identified by a first identifier;

determining a second transfer quality factor relating the <u>client computer</u> requestor and a second source, the second source identified by a second identifier, wherein at least one of the first and second sources caches a content object that originates elsewhere;

providing a preference to the selector, wherein the preference is based on the first and second transfer quality factors, the preference comprising at least one of the first and second identifiers; and

automatically selecting one of the first source and the second source with the selector to supply the content object requested by the <u>client computer</u> requestor, wherein the selecting step is based, at least in part, on the preference.

2.      (Currently Amended)  The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a <u>client computer</u> requestor and a selector, according to claim 1, the method further comprising:

identifying the first and the second sources.

3.      (Currently Amended)  The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a <u>client computer</u> requestor and a selector, according to claim 1, the method further comprising:

providing the first and the second identifiers to the <u>client computer</u> requestor.

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4.      (Currently Amended)  The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a <u>client computer</u> ~~requestor~~ and a selector, according to claim 1, wherein the determining a first transfer quality factor includes performing a plurality of tests.

5.      (Currently Amended)  The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a <u>client computer</u> ~~requestor~~ and a selector, according to claim 4, the method further comprising:

using a weighting function to weight the plurality of tests to determine the first transfer quality factor.

6.      (Currently Amended)  The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a <u>client computer</u> ~~requestor~~ and a selector, according to claim 5, wherein the weighting function is defined by a user<u> of the client computer</u>.

7.      (Currently Amended)  The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a <u>client computer</u> ~~requestor~~ and a selector, according to claim 1, wherein the selected source is a transfer node, wherein the transfer node comprises a content object dynamically transferred from an originating source and made available to the requestor.

8.      (Currently Amended)  The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim 1, the method further comprising:

displaying the preference to a user<u> of the client computer</u>.

9.      (Currently Amended)  A method for allowing a <u>client</u> ~~requestor~~ to guide selection of a content object source, the method comprising steps of:

identifying a first and a second source, wherein at least the first source being capable of requesting a content object from an originating source in response to an earlier request for the content object of the client requestor;

analyzing transfer quality between the client requestor and the first source, and between the client requestor and the second source;

ranking the first and the second sources based on the analyzed transfer qualities; and

using the ranking to guide selection of the content object source, whereby the selected content object source is one of the first source, the second source, or a third source.

10. (Currently Amended) The method for allowing a client requestor to guide selection of a content object source, according to claim 9, wherein using the ranking comprises:

transferring the ranking to a selector, the selector selecting the content object source partially based on the ranking, and the selector indicating the selected content object source to the client requestor.

11. (Currently Amended) The method for allowing a client requestor to guide selection of a content object source, according to claim 9, wherein the analyzing transfer quality includes performing a plurality of tests.

12. (Currently Amended) The method for allowing a client requestor to guide selection of a content object source, according to claim 9, wherein the analyzing transfer quality includes performing at least one of traceroute, test via file transfer, server health check, server load check, ping, path difference, BGP routing information, churn rate, or port response time.

13. (Currently Amended) The method for allowing a client requestor to guide selection of a content object source, according to claim 9, the method further comprising:

requesting the content object from the selected content object source; and

receiving the content object.

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14.     (Currently Amended)  The method for allowing a ~~client requestor~~ to guide selection of a content object source, according to claim 13, wherein the receiving the content object includes pre-fetching a portion the content object.

15.     (Currently Amended)  The method for allowing a ~~client requestor~~ to guide selection of a content object source, according to claim 13, wherein the receiving the content object includes at least one of: decompressing the content object, decrypting the content object, or performing a security check of the content object.

16.     (Previously Presented)  A method for supplying a content object from a content object source to a client via a transfer node, selection of the transfer node being influenced by a client preference, the method comprising steps of:

identifying a first transfer node and a second transfer node to the client;

ranking the first and second transfer nodes by the client, the ranking forming a client preference and based at least in part on a storage capacity of the transfer node;

selecting one of the first or second transfer nodes based on the client preference; and

requesting transfer of a content object from the selected transfer node.

17.     (Original)  The method for supplying a content object from a content object source to a client via a transfer node, selection of the transfer node being influenced by a client preference, according to claim 16, wherein the client preference is created by analysis of a transfer quality between the client and the first transfer node and between the client and the second transfer node.

18.     (Original)  The method for supplying a content object from a content object source to a client via a transfer node, selection of the transfer node being influenced by a client preference, according to claim 17, wherein the analysis of transfer quality includes performing at least two tests.

19.    (Original)  The method for supplying a content object from a content object source to a client via a transfer node, selection of the transfer node being influenced by a client preference, according to claim 16, wherein the selected transfer node is the content object source.

20.    (Original)  The method for supplying a content object from a content object source to a client via a transfer node, selection of the transfer node being influenced by a client preference, according to claim 16, wherein the selecting one of the first or second transfer nodes is done by a third transfer node.

21.    (Currently Amended)  The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a client computer ~~requestor~~ and a selector, according to claim 1, wherein the first transfer quality factor comprises an ability of the first source to receive a content object from an originator.

22.    (Currently Amended)  The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a client ~~requestor~~ and a selector, according to claim 1, wherein the first transfer quality factor comprises an average time a content object will remain on the first source.

23.    (Currently Amended)  The method for allowing a client ~~requestor~~ to guide selection of a content object source, according to claim 9, wherein the analyzing transfer quality includes analyzing a churn rate and performing at least one of traceroute, test via file transfer, server health check, server load check, ping, path difference, BGP routing information, or port response time.

24.    (Previously Presented)  The method for supplying a content object from a content object source to a client via a transfer node, selection of the transfer node being influenced by a client preference, according to claim 16, wherein the storage capacity comprises a churn rate.